

Illinois Early Learning Council Family and Community Engagement Committee Meeting

Illinois Action for Children
4753 N Broadway Ave, Chicago, IL 60640
(Bridgeview Bank Building)

***** 12th Floor, Large Conference Room *****

*Cars parked in Bridgeview Bank building will be towed.
Ample metered parking available in the lot across from the Bridgeview Bank Building
(North side of Lawrence Ave, immediately west of El tracks)*

September 9, 2015 • 11am-1pm

Toll-Free Dial-in Number: 1-866-802-6672
Participant Passcode: 247 437

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions (5 min)
 - Participants: Nubia Rodriguez, Joy Bah, Vicki Hodges, Toni Porter, Beth Berendsen, Donna Emmons, Trish Roonie, Shauna Ejeh, Bryan Stokes, Edna Navarro-Vidaure, Beth Lakier, Angela Bailey, Carie Bires, Leah Pouw, Choua Vue, Granada Williams, George Davis, Maria Whelan, Letitia Parker, Juliet Bromer, Adrienne Stewart, Reyna Hernandez
 - Maria Whelan acknowledged Saleem Hue Penny's role as FCE staffer. The co-chairs and members wished him well in his future role at Chicago Children's Museum
- Approve minutes from July 22, 2015... Approved
- Presentations
 - Innovation Zone Mid-Year Report (Leah Pouw)
 - Moving into implementation phase.
 - Summarized IZ approach and theory of change.
 - Approaches of note (*plan to document and make certain approaches public Dec 2015*):
 - Pipelines: how to better connect systems and make stronger referrals/referral networks. Learned that giving early childhood info to families through patterns doesn't necessarily transfer into parents enrolling. Need to help families understand how to enroll. Illustrated in North Lawndale with Lawndale Christian Health Center partnership.
 - Order of Activities: using index cards to detail a process, refine/revise the individual steps to ensure that activities are leading towards a given goal.

- Coordinated Screenings: illustrated through E. St Louis Early Intervention work. North Lawndale example of working with Mayor's office for preschool enrollment.
- Communities of Practice: child care providers building networks, strengthening social capital, sharing challenges and suggestions in safe space. Difficult because of competition, tendency to withdraw, keep cards close
- Early wins fast: leveraging relationships you already have, experimenting/taking risks with the partners you know and trust. This is concerted focus with new IZs. This helps boost morale and motivation with IZ members. Targeting families that are motivated and eligible, but don't know how. Working to change systems to make it easier for families to engage.
- Rewards and motivation: looking at customer service, honoring experience of families. Completing paperwork, showing up for programs, staying engaged—all examples of stages that should be celebrated.
- New statewide training and supports:
 - ABLE Change Framework: leaders learning it and looking to weave into IZ work
 - Early Intervention: piloting new approaches in three IZ's then looking to scale them up
- Sustainability: looking to see how IZ's are informing the state, how they're incubating processes, it will have to be a dedicated job.
- TA for Family & Community Engagement Award of Excellence (Letitia Parker, Jill Bradley)
 - Programs designed to help Gold level programs achieve AoE in Family and Community Engagement
 - TA program launched July 2014. October 2014, had 44 interested agencies, 22 agencies in July 2015, down to 14 agencies currently. Programs go through a cohort process. First cohort just finished. Two programs unable to attend all cohort meetings successfully completed as individual entities. Outside of Cook County model differs slightly, used clusters.
 - Although programs supposed to have a high baseline (accreditation) many programs didn't have infrastructure in place (language supports), many aren't

connected with local resources. As a result, changed approach, having center staff survey parents to identify needs. Needed to actually give resources to programs, before starting actual TA.

- 'Ladder of Family Engagement' model used for TA. Helped providers look at themselves individually, not agency-level and mission statement-level, but truly reflecting on their personal motivations. The process is valuable, even if not all programs receive the award, still finding benefits in the process.
- Suggestions: having ways that programs can share their story, documenting learnings via video, remember long-term goal that AoE requirements trickle down into Bronze/Silver/Gold levels, what does this process teach us about accreditation requirements
- The 7 standards from TA will be sent following the meeting

- Discussion

- Feedback for Statewide Provider Database and SPD-Info Website (20 min)
 - Should actually think about having fewer links rather than more. So just the basics, with very detailed guidance (decision-tree) on why/how to use the link:
 - Links to include: INCCRA, Community Profiles (Partner-Plan-Act), etc... build off list brainstormed during AFS Child Welfare Work Group meeting (Saleem, Carie, Shauna).
 - Break list down into 3-4 categories max, no more than 2 links per category
 - Should develop a webinar made for DCFS caseworkers about the topic of connecting clients to early childhood services (e.g., differences between EC programs, what they should be doing when they have a family needed services). This can exist beyond any one current DCFS leader, training budget, etc. Consider IZ learning of helping parents navigate system to enroll children, apply to case workers.

- Updates

- 1. Early Learning Council (5 min)

- Executive Committee, *Maria Whelan & George Davis*
 - Relevant issues from other ELC committees, *open to FCE members*
 - *Systems Integration and Alignment will be collaborating with AFS*

- 2. Subcommittee Updates, Q/A (15 min)

- Principles and Practices
 - Family Specialist Credential presentation

- Jamilah Jordan, Stephanie Hellmer gave presentation. Presentation materials available upon request.
- All Families Served
 - 'Dawn of System Leadership' discussion:
 - AFS trying to be intentional about having a systems discussion during each meeting. Chance for members to step outside of work and current context, and look at building our capacity as leaders.
 - Priority Population Workgroups
 - Poverty/Deep Poverty: articulating problem statement, most likely a focus on enrollment
 - Child Welfare: have put strategy memo on hold, focusing on supporting Statewide Provider Database revisions
 - Homelessness: have articulated a problem statement, focusing on lack of data collection for this population. Collecting data sources, reviewing currently, and preparing to build out a crosswalk.

3. State Updates (15 min)

- State Budget (IAFC-Public Policy): no state budget,
 - CCR&R turning away 85-95% of new applicants
 - Huge impact on quality, disincentives to improve quality, and difficult to be able to afford quality
 - Workforce issues: higher educated/paid employees getting laid off
 - System issues: statewide efforts losing capacity, hard to prioritize system building if basic needs not being made
 - Federal Pass Through bill signed, will allow some key federal resources to be freed up
 - Important childcare bill SB 570 lost by 1 vote, however bill is still alive
 - Based on current spending on track for 5 Billion deficit in General Revenue Funds in January 2016.
 - Child care advocates had meeting with Gov. Rauner, stressed seriousness of the crisis
 - JCAR will be having hearing in October (6th Springfield/7th Chicago) on whether the emergency childcare rules will be permanent
- Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD)
- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
 - Chicago Public Schools (CPS)
 - School resumed yesterday 9/8/15. Enrollment for under-enrolled classrooms is ongoing. 18 locations across city for spot placements. All North Lawndale spots full, waitlisted. Now need to focus on attendance for these slots.
 - IAFC doing pilot with 8 schools. IAFC staff will do document look ups (e.g., for a homeless family) and help with verification.

- Altgeld-Riverdale now included in "Safe Passage" program, helping address parents' safety concerns, improving attendance.
- Next Steps: Next meeting on December 9, 2015.

DRAFT